

**NARCOTIC TREATMENT PROGRAM
LONG TERM DETOXIFICATION
IMPLEMENTATION QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES**

Unless otherwise noted here, all requirements and restrictions that apply to 21-day detoxification also apply to long-term detoxification (e.g., counseling, patient absences, patient treatment plans, etc.) as outlined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 9.

Q. Who is eligible for long-term detoxification?

A. Criteria for patient selection shall be the same as for 21-day detoxification, outlined in CCR, Title 9, Section 10270(c)(1-6).

Q. Is there a waiting period between long-term detoxification episodes?

A. Yes, there is a seven day waiting period between episodes, as outlined in CCR, Title 9, Section 10270(c)(4).

Q. How are patient absences to be handled?

A. Patients in long-term detoxification **may** be discharged for three consecutive absences or more without notifying the program, at the discretion of the medical director or program physician. Patients **shall** be discharged for missing appointments for two weeks or more without notifying the program. Appropriate procedures and documentation requirements are to be followed as outlined in CCR, Title 9, Sections 10300(a) and 10300(b).

Q. Will take-homes be allowed? Based on what criteria?

A. Take-homes will be allowed, based on current CCR, Title 9, Section 10375.

- Q. Will the use of LAAM be allowed? Will LAAM take-homes in detoxification be allowed?
- A. We will treat long-term detoxification the same as 21-day detoxification (i.e., LAAM will be allowed; however, take-homes are expressly prohibited per CCR, Title 9, Section 10510(d)).
- Q. Does long-term detoxification mean 180 days, up to 180 days, more than 21 days, or more than 30 days?
- A. Long-term detoxification means anything exceeding 21 days, up to 180 days. This is somewhat different than the federal definition, which states that long-term detoxification is “more than 30 days but not in excess of 180 days.”
- Q. If a patient is placed on long-term detoxification for less than 180 days and at the end of the episode (for example, exception indicates 90 days) if it is determined that an extension is medically indicated, is another exception request required?
- A. No, as long as the total detoxification episode does not exceed 180 days, the original exception request, once approved, is valid for the entire 180 days, provided there is no break in treatment for the patient. The decision for extending the episode beyond the original 90 days and the rationale shall be documented in the patient’s record.
- Q. Will there be minimum treatment requirements (urinalysis, counseling, clinical assessment, etc.)?
- A. The same requirements as CCR, Title 9 regulations for methadone maintenance will apply (e.g., monthly urinalysis, a minimum of 50 minutes of counseling per month, initial treatment plan with quarterly updates, etc). Additionally, the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 8, Section 8.12(6) require monthly urinalysis for long-term detoxification.